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Consumer Price Index, Anchorage area — April 2022

Area prices were up 1.9 percent over the past two months, up 7.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Anchorage area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.9 percent for the two months ending in April 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 7.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices advanced 11.3 percent. Energy prices jumped 25.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 5.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Urban Alaska, April 2019–April 2022

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Apr 2019.....	2.7	2.2
Jun 2019.....	2.5	2.1
Aug 2019.....	0.7	0.6
Oct 2019.....	-0.3	-0.4
Dec 2019.....	0.0	-0.4
Feb 2020.....	-0.3	-0.8
Apr 2020.....	-2.5	-1.8
Jun 2020.....	-3.8	-4.3
Aug 2020.....	-1.5	-2.0
Oct 2020.....	0.3	0.3
Dec 2020.....	0.3	0.4
Feb 2021.....	1.3	1.3
Apr 2021.....	4.8	3.7
Jun 2021.....	6.2	6.0
Aug 2021.....	5.7	4.5
Oct 2021.....	6.3	4.9
Dec 2021.....	7.2	5.7
Feb 2022.....	7.4	5.9
Apr 2022.....	7.5	5.2

Food

Food prices rose 2.9 percent for the two months ending in April. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home advanced 4.3 percent, led by meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (7.7 percent). Prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 11.3 percent. Prices for food at home jumped 11.8 percent since a year ago, led by nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials (15.6 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 10.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 13.1 percent for the two months ending in April. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (22.7 percent). Prices for electricity increased 0.7 percent, while prices for natural gas service were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 25.2 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (52.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity decreased 4.6 percent and natural gas service prices declined 1.7 percent, during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for other goods and services (2.9 percent) and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.3 percent), used cars and trucks (-2.1 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-1.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 5.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (9.9 percent), other goods and services (7.3 percent), and shelter (4.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in apparel (-0.8 percent).

Table A. Urban Alaska CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.3	2.5	0.0	-0.3	1.0	1.3	1.1	7.4
April	0.6	2.7	-1.6	-2.5	1.8	4.8	1.9	7.5
June	2.5	2.5	1.0	-3.8	2.5	6.2		
August	-1.6	0.7	0.8	-1.5	0.3	5.7		
October	-1.2	-0.3	0.6	0.3	1.2	6.3		
December	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.3	0.4	7.2		

The June 2022 Consumer Price Index for the Anchorage area is scheduled to be released on July 13, 2022.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.















































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Urban Alaska area covered in this release consists of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the State of Alaska.











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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Apr. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022
Expenditure category							
All items.....		246.369	-	251.041	7.5	1.9	-
All items (1967=100).....		657.594	-	670.062	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....		248.244	-	255.383	10.8	2.9	-
Food.....		258.049	-	265.658	11.3	2.9	-
Food at home.....		253.848	260.258	264.849	11.8	4.3	1.8
Cereals and bakery products.....		265.648	-	269.975	10.2	1.6	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		252.863	-	272.445	14.4	7.7	-
Dairy and related products.....		230.128	-	236.643	4.3	2.8	-
Fruits and vegetables.....		381.328	-	390.437	8.6	2.4	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....		168.725	-	176.011	15.6	4.3	-
Other food at home.....		211.885	-	221.268	13.5	4.4	-
Food away from home.....		262.405	-	262.823	10.2	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages.....		155.676	-	157.908	3.0	1.4	-
Housing.....		216.545	-	217.718	3.8	0.5	-
Shelter.....		216.575	217.265	218.234	4.8	0.8	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2).....		209.879	210.903	211.924	5.2	1.0	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....		217.289	218.938	220.107	6.6	1.3	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....		217.289	218.938	220.107	6.6	1.3	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....		339.782	-	344.193	-0.9	1.3	-
Household energy.....		344.360	345.329	346.603	-2.5	0.7	0.4
Energy services.....		381.222	381.222	382.553	-3.1	0.3	0.3
Electricity.....		316.986	316.986	319.218	-4.6	0.7	0.7
Utility (piped) gas service.....		466.846	466.846	466.846	-1.7	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations.....		146.048	-	144.208	2.5	-1.3	-
Apparel.....		154.367	-	150.832	-0.8	-2.3	-
Transportation.....		266.886	-	284.740	23.0	6.7	-
Private transportation.....		279.046	-	294.510	19.1	5.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		133.837	-	133.470	9.9	-0.3	-
New vehicles(1).....		261.157	-	264.489	3.1	1.3	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....		401.623	-	393.293	23.1	-2.1	-
Motor fuel.....		314.919	379.851	387.634	53.2	23.1	2.0
Gasoline (all types).....		315.891	380.779	387.484	52.2	22.7	1.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		304.482	368.612	374.488	52.7	23.0	1.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		301.666	361.030	369.350	50.5	22.4	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		321.896	381.041	390.370	49.7	21.3	2.4
Medical care.....		676.947	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation(3).....		131.674	-	130.878	1.8	-0.6	-
Education and communication(3).....		116.227	-	115.287	0.2	-0.8	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....		764.432	-	764.701	1.0	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....		395.927	-	407.415	7.3	2.9	-
Commodity and service group							
All items.....		246.369	-	251.041	7.5	1.9	-
Commodities.....		209.693	-	216.273	11.7	3.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....		189.795	-	196.054	12.3	3.3	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....		236.421	-	255.565	17.7	8.1	-
Durables.....		149.150	-	147.848	7.9	-0.9	-
Services.....		277.109	-	279.959	4.7	1.0	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2022	Apr. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less medical care		231.462	-	236.025	7.9	2.0	-
All items less shelter.....		259.443	-	265.660	8.8	2.4	-
Commodities less food		188.556	-	194.674	12.0	3.2	-
Nondurables		243.263	-	255.752	13.7	5.1	-
Nondurables less food.....		229.929	-	247.641	16.6	7.7	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		376.288	-	381.337	4.6	1.3	-
Services less medical care services.....		253.314	-	255.875	4.8	1.0	-
Energy		328.261	366.188	371.226	25.2	13.1	1.4
All items less energy		241.933	-	244.377	6.2	1.0	-
All items less food and energy		239.469	-	241.002	5.2	0.6	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.